

Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya To the United Nations, New York Security Council -2021-2022

SECURITY COUNCIL BRIEFING AND CONSULTATIONS ON THE UNITED NATIONS SUPPORT MISSION IN LIBYA (UNSMIL) AND THE LIBYA SANCTIONS

FRIDAY, 10 SEPTEMBER 2021 (03:00PM)

STATEMENT AS DELIVERED BY AMB. MICHAEL KIBOINO, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE

Thank you Mr. President

- 1. I thank Special Envoy, Mr. Ján Kubiš, and Ms. Asma Khalifa for their briefings and insights.
- 2. We also thank Ambassador Tirumurti, the Chair of the 1970 Committee for his periodic report and welcome the Permanent Representative of Libya.

Mr. President,

- 3. Peace processes often entail a delicate balance between the urgency of decisions and the need to secure a level of inclusivity that guarantees ownership and sustainability. This requires patience and careful nurturing of the process whose wheels often turn slowly.
- 4. For this reason, Kenya applauds the people of Libya for each positive step they take towards peace and stability. Notably, the landmark reopening of the Misrata-

Sirte coastal road, the registration of voters including for Libyans abroad, and the continued dialogue within all the tracks, are commendable steps in this direction.

- 5. We note however, that there are critical elements in the peace process that are pending and creating barriers to its progress. We believe that the desire and decision of the Libyan people to hold elections on 24 December will be better actualized if there is in place an appropriate legal framework and adequate budgetary provision.
- 6. It is also imperative to ensure the equal, full and meaningful participation of women not only in the preparatory process, but also in the actual elections.
- 7. Kenya urges the Libyan people to consider how far they have come and how near they may be to the momentous end of the transition. We particularly call on the political class to consider each other as fellow countrymen and countrywomen and exercise flexibility and compromise for the collective gains of their nation and their future generations.
- 8. In this regard, we welcome the official announcement of the launch of the comprehensive national reconciliation project by the Chairman of the Presidency Council earlier this week. We appreciate the support of the African Union to provide support for this, fully persuaded that national reconciliation is a necessary component that would contribute significantly to the holding of peaceful and credible elections.
- 9. Mr. President, this Council has repeatedly called for commitment to the ceasefire agreement and adherence to the arms embargo including through its resolutions 2570 and 2571, as well as Presidential Statements and other products. The need for all the parties to heed this call cannot be over emphasised.
- 10. The Council has also been seized of the destabilising effect of the continued presence of foreign forces and mercenaries not only to Libya, but also to the

region, especially the Sahel. Their long overdue exit should happen without further delay for the desired truly Libyan-led and owned peace process to be achieved.

- 11. It is important that regional and international attention be paid to the need for disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration. In this regard, we urge that the impending UNSMIL mandate renewal acknowledges this, to help prevent the possible cyclic conflict in the Sahel region and beyond.
- 12. A regional perspective in the management of the peace process would be necessary to tackle the continued illegal migration challenge. We therefore encourage continued consultations between Libya and neighbouring states with the support of the UN and initiatives such as the Quartet Agreement between Libya, Chad, Niger and Sudan.
- 13. Kenya is concerned by increased reports of the activity of terrorist groups including ISIL and Al-Qaida in Libya. Urgent counter-terrorism measures must be undertaken in order to sustain the peace process and protect the gains that have been made.
- 14. We note that Libyan assets are to be preserved for the future return to and benefit of the people of Libya in accord with Resolution 1970. We therefore, urge that the implementation of the assets freeze be always done in liaison with the Libyan authorities. A periodic review of the assets freeze will serve to ensure that its purposes are served especially as Libya looks towards the elections and for unified institutions and national processes.
- 15. To conclude, I reiterate Kenya's support for the tireless efforts of the Special Envoy and the UN Mission in support of the peace process and I reaffirm Kenya's solidarity with the people of Libya in their quest for sustainable peace and stability through a truly Libyan-led and Libya-owned political peace process.

I Thank you